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To subscribe to THE DISSEMINATOR, send a message to listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca and enter the following text in the body of the message: **subscribe dissem-list yourfirstname yourlastname.** Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Gillian Webster at webstegs@gov.ns.ca .

NEWSFLASH - 1999 DIRECTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARIES

The 1999 edition of the Directory of Nova Scotia Libraries is now available. This annual publication is the most current and comprehensive listing of more than 250 libraries and archival institutions in Nova Scotia. Entries provide comprehensive data, including subjects collected, hours, key staff names, mailing address, telephone, fax, e-mail addresses, and Web addresses. It has detailed appendices which facilitate access to information on the Nova Scotia library community.

It is an indispensable publication for ILL and reference staff, educators, researchers, library suppliers and the publishing world. Copies are available in print and on diskette (3.5") in WordPerfect format. All copies are $10.00 (plus $1.50 H.S.T.). You can also search the Directory online at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library website at **http://www.library.ns.ca** by clicking on the link *Directory of N.S. Libraries*. For more information on the Directory, please contact Frank Oram at (902) 424-2480 or by e-mail at foram@nshpl.library.ns.ca . To order a copy, please contact Judy Naugler at (902) 424-2454 or by email at nauglejr@gov.ns.ca .

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Note: This is a Special Issue onYear 2000 Activities. Public libraries are information centres and their staff can help the public find the answers toYear 2000 queries. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library has assembled this information in good faith but does not assume responsibility or liability for the accuracy and completeness of of information supplied.

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FEATURE ARTICLES

The Year 2000 and the Nova Scotia Government
The Year 2000 and the Department of Education & Culture
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COLUMNS

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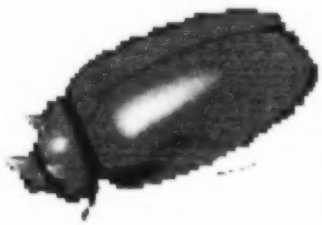
Professional Reading



THE YEAR 2000 AND THE NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT

For those unfamiliar with the Year 2000 problem, variously known as Y2K or the millennium bug, it refers to the potential for automated and computerized equipment to malfunction or quit when the calendar flips to the year 2000. The source of the difficulty is the pervasive use of the last two digits of the year as programming shorthand for the four-digit year. (E.g. 89 for 1989) The first two digits are "understood" as 19, indicating the 20th century. In affected computer chips and equipment, the year 2000 turns up as 00, but the first two "understood" digits remain static at 19. Unless remedied, the problem can trigger malfunctions, even equipment stoppages.

The Government of Nova Scotia has taken the Y 2000 issue seriously and mounted the biggest internal project in its history to protect services to the public. Health, safety, security, economic well being and the environment of Nova Scotians are all of particular concern. Based on data from December 31, 1998, the Department of Health projected costs of over 60 million dollars to complete their projects, out of a total of approximately 82 million dollars for all departments.

The main government website is a gateway to Year 2000 information for the public. Visit the main site at **http://www.gov.ns.ca** and click on the *Year 2000* link or point your browser to **http://www.gov.ns.ca/y2k**. The Technology and Science Secretariat's Year 2000 Project Office has the mandate to monitor the Nova Scotia government's progress in solving Year 2000 computer and embedded chip problems.

Many of the Departments and Agencies maintain *What's New* pages specific to their sites. For example, click on the *Departments* or *Agencies* links to see a list of all the departmental websites. The Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs has a Year 2000 page at **http://www.gov.ns.ca/homa/muns/advs/unsmfct.htm.**

On the government's home page, there is a link to *Government of Nova Scotia News Releases* at **http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/**. This has daily releases which you can view, or you can browse 1998-99 news release listings. For example, the Department of Labour News Releases page for December 1998 has a link to their site *Elevators and Lifts Pass Year 2000 Test* at **http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=19981217002.** Department of Labour officials are quoted in the document "there will be no risk using elevators in buildings across the province when the year 2000

begins".

N.S. Emergency Measures Organization

The N.S. Emergency Measures Organization (EMO N.S.) at **http://www.gov.ns.ca/envi/dept/emo/info1/whatis.htm** is a division of the Department of the Environment assigned the responsibility for ensuring a reasonable level of readiness during disasters and emergencies within Nova Scotia, Year 2000. Its legislative authority is the Emergency Measures Act (Chapter 8 of the Acts of 1990) and appended regulations. The Minister responsible for the Administration of the Emergency Measures Act is the Hon. Michel Samson, Minister of the Environment.

An example of a corporate site in Nova Scotia is:

Nova Scotia Power

Visit the website at **http://www.nspower.ca** to find out the Year 2000 status of this utility. If you have further, specific questions, please contact N.S. Power by email at year2000@nspower.ca , by telephone at 902-428-6996, or in writing to:

Public Affairs - Year 2000
P.O. Box 910
Halifax, NS
B3J 2W5

THE YEAR 2000 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & CULTURE

As part of the overall Government of Nova Scotia project, the Department of Education and Culture has developed a Year 2000 Project. The mandate of the Department's Year 2000 Project is to maintain full operation of all systems and processes of the Department. This mandate extends to ensuring continued full operation of all systems and processes of affiliated organizations authorised to carry out critical functions on behalf of the Department.

The Department's Project has both an internal and external component. The internal component includes IT systems, non-IT systems and business functions for all sections, Divisions and Branches of the Department. The external component includes all organizations affiliated to the Department who carry out some aspect of the Department's mandate. For these organizations, the Department's involvement ranges from notification of the Year 2000 problem to some type of cooperative intervention with the organization. The Department is well on its way to completing its project.

Within the Department's project, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Department's Year 2000 Coordinator are working with the nine regional libraries to ensure that their critical functions can be carried out in the Year 2000 and beyond. A group of regional library representatives meet bi-monthly to review progress and submit monthly progress reports to the Department Year 2000 Coordinator. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library, itself, is preparing to ensure that NcompasS is Year 2000 compliant. We have received vendor assurance that all hardware, operating systems and application software is compliant and will carry out testing when the latest version of DRA/MultiLIS is installed in late April. Information on DRA and Year 2000 readiness is available at **http://www.dra.com**. We are in contact with other vendors such as Information Access, A-G Canada and the National Library of Canada to

ensure these external systems will be compliant.

GENERAL YEAR 2000 CONSUMER AWARENESS

Here is a list of annotated websites which may be helpful when public enquiries are made at our regional public libraries. This list is also available on floppy disks. If you would like a copy, please contact Gillian Webster at 424-2478 or email webstegs@gov.ns.ca.

Banking

The major banks in Canada (such as Royal Bank, Bank of Canada, CIBC) have been working together since 1995 to get ready for January 1, 2000, and there is information available on the World Wide Web about their plans. According to the Canadian Bankers Association, at **http://www.cba.ca/eng/Year2000/you.htm**, Canadian banks are almost ready. The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce at **http://www.cibc.com/index.html** has detailed reports on their readiness for January 1st, as well as information written to help small businesses. An excerpt from their site says: "Is Your Business Ready for the Year 2000? When you're mapping out this year's business plan, you may want to include planning for the year 2000. Whether you are dealing with cash registers, desktop accounting systems or other software, you may experience problems. In fact, anything that deals with calendar information - even items such as elevators, building security and telecommunications - may be affected."

The Royal Bank at **http://www.royalbank.com/year2000/about.html** discusses the bank's plans and urges small businesses to get ready: "Although the problem can lead to financial disaster, only 50 per cent of the companies that may be affected by theYear 2000 problem will be ready to deal with it. Most major corporations are investigating and beginning to address their Year 2000 situations, but many small to mid-size companies have not budgeted the time or resources required to investigate and rectify their Year 2000 situations."

Community Life

The Cassandra Project

At http://cassandraproject.org/home.html, the Cassandra Project's philosophy is: "We advocate planning and preparedness in the event year 2000 related disruptions occur... Whether hype or disaster, we can and should take steps to protect our neighbors, our friends, families, and ourselves, regardless. Time will determine the outcome."

Utne Reader's Y2K Citizen's Action Guide

Browse online or download a copy of this guide from the Utne Reader Online website at **http://www.utne.com/y2k/index.html**, which has articles by various authors on such topics as "Individual Preparation for Y2K" by Paloma O'Riley.

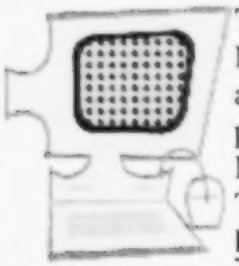
The American Red Cross

The Red Cross has a guide called *Safety Y2K: What You Can Do to Be Prepared* at **www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/y2k.html.** It contains a FAQ column with

entries such as this one: *When could Y2K problems happen?* Most people anticipate the Year 2000 problems may happen December 31, 1999, at midnight. Many experts predict that the problem is more likely to be a persistent one over a few years rather than a single "crash." For example, there may be a computer-based problem with other dates, such as April 9, 1999, which is the 99th day of the year, or on 9/9/99. In the past, a series of nines was used to indicate termination of a computer program. There is also concern regarding fiscal year 2000 dates in those organizations with fiscal years that start earlier than December 31, 1999. As well, the year 2000 is a leap year, and 02/29/2000 may be a problem.

Small Business

The Calgary Public Library has an extensive site for small businesses at **http://public-library.calgary.ab.ca/services/y2kbus.htm**, plus links that may be of interest to anyone. It was prepared with the citizens of Calgary in mind, but it has links to such large Year 2000 sites such as Gary North's Y2K Links and Forums at **http://www.garynorth.com/y2k/search_.cfm**, where Gary North has prepared a subject oriented list to the state of Year 2000 readiness internationally. He is personally pessimistic about many sectors being ready for January 1, 2000.



Testing your home computer

Macintosh owners don't have anything to worry about regarding the operating system and the computer itself because the embedded chips in their computers are all programmed to handle four digit dates, such as 2000. But for those who own MS-Windows or MS-DOS based microcomputers, some testing will need to be done. There are links to Microsoft webpages at **http://www.microsoft.com/technet/year2k/product/product.htm** which provide detailed information about all Microsoft products' compliance status and even the computer files which will have to be updated. At this site is a list of companies that offer Year 2000 tools and may be able to assist you in your Year 2000 remediation efforts. Strategis at **http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sos2000** provides information on how individuals can test their home computers for Year 2000 readiness. This site provides extensive user-friendly information about testing all relevant household appliances and provides links to manufacturers. See the **LINKed** column below for more information on this and other Federal Government web sites.

General Information available on the Internet

Electronic Periodical Databases

Most libraries now have online access to current journals, newspapers and magazines. At the regional public libraries you can have access to thousands of full-text articles through the Infotrac databases. For example, the December 28, 1998 issue of Maclean's magazine printed the results of a poll conducted in April, 1998. A significant minority said they would withdraw more money than usual before January 1, 2000; thirty per cent of the respondents said they would seek sources of energy not dependent on computers, and twenty per cent surveyed said they would buy more food than usual before January 1, 2000.

Munisource

This page at **http://munisource.org/y2k/index.html** contains links to online news stories related to Year 2000 computing issues and much more. This site also has a link to sites where you can download

Year 2000 test software. There is a link to *Task Force 2000*, which is the federal government's site on Year 2000 issues on the Strategis website at **http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mangb/y2k/burst.html**.

The Year 2000 Information Center - Press Clippings
Visit the site at **http://www.year2000.com/articles/articles.html**. This page contains links to online news stories related to Year 2000 computing issues. If you would like to sign up for the Year 2000 Announcement List, please use the link on this page to sign up. It is free, and will provide you e-mail updates twice each month on Year 2000 issues.

Chebucto Community Net
The Chebucto Community Net has useful Year 2000 information in the latest edition of the Beacon, CCN's newsletter, and it is issue V. 2, No. 1. The Beacon list of Year 2000 web sites divided up into Local (Nova Scotia), National (Canada) and International categories. The url is: **www.chebucto.ns.ca/Newsletter/Beacon/y2kindex.html**.

Strategies and Tactics at the turn of the Millennium by Robert Theobald
Robert Theobald is based in Spokane, WA, USA. His latest book is "Reworking Success." He voices his Year 2000 concerns thus: "It is now certain that 1999 is going to be a tumultuous year. It is also clear that there will be a multitude of voices with different takes on the challenges that face the human race. I am one of many people who believe that our industrial-age successes have so radically changed conditions that we urgently need profoundly new goals. Current commitments to maximum economic growth, international competitiveness, indiscriminate use of technology and an ever-higher standard of living must be abandoned because they threaten the survival of the human race.

Our future goals must include social cohesion, ecological integrity, effective decision-making and a high quality of life. These can only be achieved if we reemphasize the moral, the sacred and the spiritual over the pragmatic and the economic. We need to move from a mechanistic to an organic view of how the universe works. My career has spanned the last half of the twentieth century and I have watched a continuing change in priorities take place. More and more people deny the validity of the patterns of thought we have inherited from the past. The Year 2000 is opening up issues which we have hidden from ourselves over recent decades. We are being forced to ask what sort of society will serve us best in the twenty-first century. We are in urgent need for opportunities for conversation about what we each want for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren."

For more information contact:

Robert Theobald
East 202 Rockwood Blvd, #1,
Spokane, Wa 99202, USA
509-835-3569
e-mail:theobald@iea.com
http://www.transform.org/transform/tlc/index.html

HOT TIPS

Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks win at the 1999 Grammies!
The *2000 Year Old Man* albums have been delighting fans for more than 35 years. *The 2000 Year Old Man In The Year*

2000: The Album was a smash in 1997 as Mel & Carl made numerous appearances on TV, radio, and the Web. And on February 24, 1999, it won the Grammy Award in the "Best Spoken Comedy Album" category! Three of the four previous albums were nominated; #4 was finally the winner! For more details, click on **http://www.rhino.com/Features/72944p.html.**

"INVITING LEADERSHIP: FINDING OUR ROLE IN RESILIENT COMMUNITIES" THREE VIDEO CONFERENCES

The first of three video teleconferences was held on January 22nd to look at forces of transformation reshaping our present world and leadership in communities. A second videoconference on April 8th will examine the particular challenges and opportunities around Y2K and a third video conference on May 27th will look at what communities across the country are doing to promote resilience. This series of Video teleconferences is sponsored by Network for Creative Change, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Learning Resources and Technology, Department of Education and Culture. The series is open to anyone, cost if any will be minimal. To attend, contact Debbie Ross at 902-424-2457 or by email at rossdl@gov.ns.ca.

Report of the Satellite Video teleconference, January 22nd

The first video teleconference : "Inviting Leadership: Finding Our role in Resilient communities" with Robert Theobald and Margaret Wheatley was held at Nova Scotia Provincial Library. The satellite teleconference was organized with only four days notice and yet ten individuals, mostly members of the Network for Creative Change, attended. This and future videoconferences will be available on loan from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library professional collection. The first is called "Inviting Leadership: Finding our Role in Resilient Communities." If you wish to borrow a copy, contact Dale MacMillan at 902-424-2479 or by email at inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

Information on the two upcoming Satellite Video teleconferences

The April 8, 1999 session will present Year 2000 preparedness issues. This session will look at how higher levels of sustainability can emerge from the immediate requirements posed by Year 2000 dilemmas. The May 26, 1999 program could be touted as a "Global Brainstorm." View the spectrum of issues related to resilience at personal, family, community and ecological levels. Those who have been working in communities across North America will share their experience. This community think-tank will share their approaches towards resiliency and generate solutions for one another. The website **http://www.resilientcommunities.org** will serve as a community soap box throughout the process. Contact: Janet M. Eaton (902) 542-1631 or by email at jeaton@fox.nstn.ca or Marion Pape (902) 424-2457 or at mpape@nshpl.library.ns.ca .

LINKed

Here is a list of the federal government Year 2000 Internet sites.

The Treasury Board Secretariat is responsible for overall coordination and readiness of federal government departments for the Year 2000. Its Internet site is **The Canadian Federal Government Year 2000 Information Site** at **http://www.info2000.gc.ca/** .
This site features:

- a Federal Government monthly progress report.
- "Dangerous Dates for Y2K Compliance" list.
- Links to the Year 2000 Web pages of other federal government sites.
- provincial government sites; colleges and universities; industry sites and governments of foreign countries.
- There are also links to sites with legal information concerning The Year 2000, Risk Management & Contingency Planning, Testing and links to two databases - Vendor 2000 and The Government of Canada Vendor Information Service.
- Vendor 2000 at **http://www.vendor2000.com/** is a compliance information database that provides up-to-date information on tens of thousands of products from thousands of suppliers. This database reports which assets are Year 2000-ready and which need to be replaced or upgraded.
- The Government of Canada Vendor Information Service at **http://vaunter.gc.ca/index.html** has information on Year 2000 readiness of products used by the federal government. Product types listed in this database are software, telecommunications and embedded systems.

SOS 2000 is Industry Canada's Web site at **http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sos2000**

- It has the fulltext of documents such as "The year 2000 Problem - Canada's State of Readiness Thirteenth Report (Interim) Standing Committee on Industry February 1999."
- links to the Year 2000 Web pages of federal government sites.
- link to the Year 2000 Canadian Service Providers Directory at **http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/yk04024e.html.** This directory lists private sector suppliers ready to help firms become Year 2000 compliant. Keyword searches can be limited by province. The Technical Challenge section of this site includes Standards and Conversion Strategies.
- Other features of the site are a Listing of Related Conferences & Events; Links to other Year 2000 Sites and The Year 2000 Millennium Bug Home Check at **http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/yk04717e.html** .

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Year 2000 at **http://aceis.agr.ca/policy/y2k/** has information on what agricultural industry suppliers are doing to prepare for the Year 2000 and what individual agricultural producers should be doing to prepare.

Some information on the Year 2000 preparations of the federal government departments which have to do with the **money and finances of the nation** can be found at the following web sites:

- Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000 (Auditor General) at **http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/domino/reports.nsf/html/ch9712e.html**
- Bank of CanadaYear 2000 issues at **http://www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/y2000.htm**
- Information from the Department of Finance on "Tax treatment of the year 2000 expenditures" is

available in a document titled "Government Provides Tax Relief to Small Businesses for Year 2000 Computer Compliance" at **http://www.fin.gc.ca/newse98/98-057e.html**

- Year 2000 Project (Revenue Canada) at **http://www.rc.gc.ca/y2k/** has fulltext documents on the subject.

Some **health information** on the Year 2000 preparations of the federal government can be found at the following web sites:

- **Health Canada's Therapeutic Products Programme Web Medical Devices: The Year 2000 site** at **http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb-dgps/therapeut/htmleng/y2k_md.html** has information on the potential impact of the Year 2000 on the safety and effectiveness of medical devices sold in Canada.

- The Medical Devices: The Year 2000 Database is part of the site at **http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb-dgps/therapeut/htmleng/y2k_db.html**. Here you will find information which has been provided to Health Canada by medical device manufacturers or users. (At the end of the disclaimer, click on "I understand" to gain access.) There is also "The Year 2000: Medical Device Advisories List of Companies" that have not provided Year 2000 compliance data.

Environment Canada's Year 2000 Information Page on The Green Lane at **http://www1.tor.ec.gc.ca/year2000/** has Environment Canada information on the potential for environmental damage due to the failure of control systems.

The Human Resources Development CanadaYear 2000 Site at **http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/year2000/** has a Year 2000 Questions & Answers Section with links to other governmental Year 2000 sites.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency YEAR 2000 Readiness site at **http://www.cfia-acia.agr.ca/english/corpaffr/publications/Year2000/2000toc.html** has information on its Year 2000 readiness

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, in keeping with the Year 2000 theme, we are featuring some interesting articles from periodicals in our professional collection, as well as a bibliography. Submit interlibrary loan requests to inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca if you wish to read any.

Hattery, Maxine - **Y2K & library: A few useful web pages**. *Information Retrieval & Library Automation Vol. 34, No. 8, pg 1-2, January 1999.*

This articles discusses useful websites available to assist librarians in tackling the Year 2000 problem. Most of these are American; however, the Ontario Library Service website is featured as being practical and listing hardware, software, and embedded-ware checklists, Microsoft year 2000 product guides and patches.

Robertson, Guy - **Preparing for the Year 2000: The compliance process for library systems.** *Feliciter Vol. 43, No. 9, pg 36-38, June 1997.*

This article provides a basic overview of the Year 2000 problem and how Canadian libraries are dealing with it. The author describes a comprehensive compliance process which libraries should follow to successfully handle this problem.

Sparks, Amanda - **The Year 2000 Problem - a Selected Bibliography**. Halifax, N.S. 1998.

This three page bibliography is prepared by Amanda Sparks, a member of the DalTech library staff. It lists relevant books, journal articles, electronic full text articles and web sites. This is a valuable resource list for anyone who wants to gain a good understanding of theYear 2000 problem. (The focus of this bibliography is of a general nature and does not specifically relate to libraries).

The following potentially useful articles are not available from our collection, but may be obtained from other libraries via interlibrary loan as indicated.

Faulkner, A. - **The Year 2000 problem and its implications for the information profession.** *Journal of Information Science Vol. 24, No. 4, pg 255-65, 1998.*

Some locations: NSHD Z699 A1 J6 v.1-
AMICUS 1570236: OHM v.1- ; OLU v.1-

Young, J. And Johns, V.S. - **The Year 2000: Millennial implications for libraries**. *Journal of Academic Librarianship Vol. 24, No. 1, pg 53-57, January 1998.*

Some locations: NSHS v.5- ; NSWA v.1-
AMICUS 115962: NFSM v.1- ; NBFU v.1-